

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 3 has been added

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-3 are pending.

Status of the Specification and Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings filed for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) by not including reference signs mentioned in the description. Figure 1A and 1B have been amended to include the necessary reference signs.

Additionally, the Examiner objects to the drawings for lacking clarity. Figures 1 through 5 have been amended to clarify the figures.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended drawings are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to by the Examiner for failing to comply with MPEP 608.01(b) and consist of a single paragraph. The abstract has been amended and Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,048 to Kikuchi et al. ("Kikuchi"). The Examiner contends that Kikuchi, in at least Figure 45, discloses every feature of the invention including the first and second detection sections which

connect the first and second supports sections to first and second support securing sections of a rectangular frame portion of a base portion.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that Kikuchi does not disclose every element of the claimed invention. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the elements of “a first and second detection section ... disposed outside said drive section.” Support for this amendment is in the Specification, page 5; and Figure 1A. Kikuchi does not teach or suggest detection sections outside of the drive section.

The end portions of Kikuchi’s first and second detection section 44C, 44D connect to support sections 46. Detection sections 44C, 44D also connect to first and second support securing sections of a rectangular frame portion 74. Additionally, detection sections 44C, 44D are connected through the support sections 46 to arms 23C, 23D. Arms 23C, 23D extend in a direction substantially parallel to the first and second detection sections 44C, 44D.

Applicants submit that Kikuchi’s drive section is composed of arms 23C, 23D. Detection sections 44C, 44D are within and parallel to arms 23C, 23D. Thus, they are within the drive section as defined and claimed. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the detection sections are disposed outside the drive section.

Therefore, Kikuchi’s detection sections exist within a drive section and cannot anticipate the present invention and claim 1.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and as such is patentable at least for the reasons stated above regarding claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated September 16, 2004 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-3 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-5.

Figure 1A and 1B have been amended to recite elements 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 and to clarify the figures.

Figures 2 through 5 have been amended to clarify the figures.

Attachment: Replacement sheet